Alexa Mattiello

September 25, 2015

For my context statement, my partner and I have chosen to research Scituate High school here in Rhode Island.

I attended Lewis S. Mills High School in Burlington, Connecticut and just graduated this year in 2015. My high school was a regional school that combined students in grades 9-12 from both towns of Harwinton and Burlington. It is a public school with about 800 or so students. It is a very clean and up-to-date campus, with lots of new technology in the classrooms. I was very fortunate to go to a high school that was able to supply students with not only the necessities for learning but also extra things including access to computers and clean drinking water in the brand new fountains. There were dozens of clubs and organizations to join along with many different sports teams, all mostly funded through the school itself.

Obviously a lot of students here in our country were not as lucky as me and didn’t quite have all of the opportunities that I did because of my school. One thing that the schools in North Lawndale had that I didn’t was diversity. That was one thing that unfortunately I really missed out on because of where I lived. I wish that I could have spent my childhood being more exposed to other races and cultures but region 10 was not a community that had that to offer. However, we always had teachers in every classroom and when a teacher couldn’t be there, there was always a sub to step in. When reading Savage Inequalities, I couldn’t believe that hundreds of kids would be without a teacher each and every day and the schools did nothing about it. I was also shocked to find out how little the school cared when students would drop out. In fact, they preferred it when students dropped out because it made it easier on them. Reading this story has really opened my eyes and made me realize truly how blessed I was and still am to have lived in the community that I did and to have attended the schools that I did. I never realized that school systems like the ones presented in this book existed, let alone in our own country.

All I can say is that I am very grateful to have grown up where I did. Shame on the school board in Chicago for allowing this to happen all too often. My hope is that something changes and hopefully soon so that students across the country can have the opportunities that I was lucky enough to have at my high school.